

## Mint of the United States at Philadelphia,

MELTING AND REFINING DEPARTMENT,

Philadelphia, June 17<sup>th</sup>, 1889.

Hon. D. M. Fox

Superintendent.

Sir

In response to your request for an expression of opinion from this Dept. as to whether the best interests of the Govt. would be subserved by the acceptance of any other than the lowest bid for crucibles to supply the wants of this Mint for the coming year; I have respectfully to ask your attention to the reasons which impel me again to ask that the second bid, that of R. Taylor & Son, be accepted.

We are melting and preparing upwards of 71 Seven Tons of Silver Dollar weight metal daily, and this mass of metal has to pass the crucible in 3000 oz charges, and be safely ladled by dipping cups into the moulds. Any mishap here is of serious importance



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To The Melter & Refiner, as well as to The Govt. - and  
any modification of our practice (even without mishap)  
is a detriment to our work. Under these circumstances  
it should not be thought strange, that the one most in-  
trusted as a servant of the Govt., should be conservative  
in making changes without a strong presumption of im-  
provement. On this point, I may refer to my letter  
of June 28<sup>th</sup> 1888, in which I alluded to trials made of  
The Phoenix crucibles. These trials were made upon  
my suggestion, with the sole desire of selecting the  
best crucible for our purposes. The result was as  
stated in that letter and not favorable to any change.  
If the lowest bid be accepted - That of The Phoenix Co.  
There would be a saving of  $\frac{7}{10}$ <sup>th</sup> of a cent <sup>each</sup> on our "70 cru-  
cible". We have bought of them during the fiscal year  
just closing, 800 pieces - and 95 of small size for  
Deposit melting room. We would save about \$6.<sup>00</sup> next year



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on crucibles, by taking the Phoenix Co's bid, - if the same number would do our work. The Taylor co. guarantees 26 melts per crucible - and our records show that they have exceeded this during the past year.

The prices of the latter company are materially higher for cups, rings &c - The Total difference being some \$500 on the year's supply. Yet an important part of this excess is for dipping cups, which come next to crucibles in importance as to quality. The loaded cup must withstand the "nip" of the tongs, and carry safely the daily output to the moulds, otherwise burrs & increased scrap.

Outside of crucibles & cups, the other articles are of less importance as to quality & price. But I do not imagine that any concern would care for these apart from the leading articles, for which I have given my reasons for a preference.

I have thus written at length, with a desire



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To make it evident, why it is possible, without favoritism or prejudice to prefer an article well known to us by use, over another not favorably known, even at a slightly less price, when the magnitude of our operations, and the values we handle, make the apparent saving appear of such trifling significance.

Respectfully

D. L. G. Tuttle

Melior &amp; Refiner



Mint of the United States at Philadelphia,  
Melting and Refining Department,  
Philadelphia,  
June 17, 1889

Hon. D.M. Fox  
Superintendent

Sir

In response to your request for an expression of opinion from this Dept. as to whether the best interests of the Govt. would be subserved by the acceptance of any other than the lowest bid for crucibles to supply the wants of this Mint for the coining year; I have respectfully to ask your attention to the reasons which impel me again to ask that the second bid: that of R. Taylor & Son, be accepted.

We are melting and preparing upwards of (7) seven tons of silver dollar ingot metal daily, and this mass of metal has to pass the crucible in 3000 ozs. charges, and be safely ladled by dipping cups into the moulds. Any mishap here is of serious importance to the Melter & Refiner, as well as to the Govt. – and any modification of our practice (even without mishap) is a detriment to our work. Under these circumstances it should not be thought strange, that the one most interested as a servant of the Govt., should be conservative in making changes without a strong presumption of improvement. On this point, I may refer to my letter of June 28th, 1888, in which I alluded to trials made of the Phoenix crucibles. These trials were made upon my suggestion, with the sole desire of selecting the best crucible for our purposes. The result was as stated in that letter and not favorable to any change. If the lowest bid be accepted – that of the Phoenix Co. there would be a saving of 7/10 of a cent each on our “70 crucible. We have bought of these during the final year just closing, 800 pieces – and 95 of small size for deposit melting room. We would save about \$6.00 next year on crucibles, by taking the Phoenix Co.’s bid, - if the same number would do our work. The Taylor Co. guarantee 26 melts per crucible – and our records show they have exceeded this during the past year. The prices of the latter company are materially higher for cups, rings &c. The total difference being some \$500 on the years supply. Yet an important part of this excess is for dipping cups, which come next to crucible in importance as to quality. The loaded cup must withstand the “nip” of the tongs, and carry safely the daily output of the moulds, otherwise burns & increased sweeps. Outside of crucibles & cups, the other articles are of less importance as to quality & price. But I do not inquire that any concern would care for these apart from the leading articles, for which I have given my reasons for a preference.

I have this written at length, with a desire to make it evident, why it is possible, without favoritism or prejudice to prefer an article well known, even at a slightly less price, when this magnitude of our operations, and the values we handle, make the apparent saving appear of such trifling significance.

Respectfully,  
D.K. Tuttle, Melter & Refiner